

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, 5, 10 and 12-15, and add new claims 16-20, as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) A method of transmitting a chain of database management messages between a management centre and a plurality of distributed subscriber databases, wherein each management message member of this chain comprises a chain header, a chain identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

~~(a) providing with each management message~~ creating a conditional block for each management message member of said chain effective for determining whether this current message is to be processed without references to all or part of other message members of the chain, and in the negative event, effective for defining conditions linked to a previous processing of all or part of other messages members of the chain; and

(b) adding said conditional block to each of said respective management message members of said chain;

~~(b)~~ transmitting the chain of database management messages between a management centre and a plurality of distributed subscriber databases.

2. (previously amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises the step of:

determining, according to the conditional block if at least one message of the chain can, must, or must not have been processed first.

3. (previously amended) A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

managing a table in the subscriber database containing an information representing a processing state of each member of the chain, updating said table every time that a member of the chain is processed, and resetting said table either on request of the managing centre or after a predefined time.

4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein the subscriber database is connected to a subscriber unit and wherein it comprises the step of storing ~~memorising~~ the management messages in a memory of the subscriber unit and of presenting them on request to the subscriber database.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the method comprises the steps of ~~memorizing~~ storing incoming messages in series, each incoming message causing an increment of a stack pointer of incoming messages, and of allowing a direct access to the messages requested by the subscriber database.

6. (previously amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the memory of the subscriber unit is configured as a serial buffer memory having a fixed length.

7. (previously amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the method comprises the steps of receiving in the subscriber database, a message member of a chain, and of allocating in the subscriber unit, the memory necessary for receiving all the members of this chain.

8. (previously amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the method comprises the steps of requesting the subscriber module to compose a management message describing its software and hardware resources and of sending said message, either to the subscriber database or to the management centre.

9. (previously amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the request is transmitted, either by the management centre under the form of a management message, or by the subscriber database under the form of an instruction on an I/O line.

10. (currently amended) A system for transmitting a chain of database management messages, comprising:

(a) a management center adapted to send said chain of data base management messages centre,

(b) a plurality of subscriber units adapted to receive said chain of data base management messages, wherein each subscriber unit comprises a subscriber database located in a security module, and

(c) a message chain comprising a plurality of message members, wherein each message member of the chain comprises a header, a chain identifier, a chain index, and a conditional block effective for determining whether the current message is to be processed without reference to all or part of the other messages member of the chain, and in the negative event, effective for defining conditions linking the processing of the current message member to the processing of all or part of other messages member of the chain.

11. (previously amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein the conditional block comprises a condition determining whether all or part of the messages member of the chain can, must, or must not have been processed first.

12. (currently amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein the security module includes a message manager able to store in a memory an information representing a processing state of each message of the chain, and wherein it includes a

state comparator adapted to compare said processing state of each message of said chain
~~means for comparing this state~~ with the conditions expressed in the conditional block of
the message currently processed.

13. (currently amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein the subscriber
unit includes a memory for messages, wherein each incoming message causes the
displacement of an input pointer in the memory, and wherein the security module is
adapted ~~includes means~~ to read and process these messages.

14. (currently amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the subscriber
unit includes a connection line towards the security module and wherein said subscriber
unit is adapted to ~~it includes means to~~ determine the size of the memory according to
instructions received from the security module and to reply ~~means for replying~~ to the
security module by composing and sending a management message to said ~~this~~ security
module.

15. (currently amended) A system according to claim 12, wherein the subscriber
unit includes a selection module to operably connect a management message separator, a
processing center of the subscriber module, the security module and the memory, and
wherein said subscriber unit is adapted ~~means~~ to recognize the management messages
destined only to the processing center and to forward these messages to the processing
center.

16. (new) A method of transmitting, between a management centre and a
plurality of distributed subscriber databases, a chain of database management messages
comprising a plurality of management message members, wherein each management

message member comprises a chain header and a chain identifier, the method comprising the steps of:

determining dependencies between management messages members to be sent as part of a chain of management message members, wherein said chain identifier identifies the order of transmission of said management message members of said chain;

using said dependencies to create a condition block for a management message member, wherein said condition block determines a permissible order of processing of each management message member forming a chain of management member messages;

inserting said conditional block into said management message member;

transmitting said management message member,

wherein said conditional block allows a receiver of said management message members to manage a table in the subscriber database containing an information representing a processing state of each member of the chain.

17. (new) The method of claim 16, wherein said conditional block does not require processing of any other management message members of said chain of management message members.

18. (new) A method of receiving a chain of database management messages, between a management centre and a plurality of distributed subscriber databases, wherein each management message member of said chain comprises a chain header, a chain identifier, and a conditional block, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving at least one management message member that is part of said chain of database management messages;

processing said management message member in accordance with said conditional block.

19. (new) The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:
creating a processing state table for tracking the processing of said management message member in said chain of database management messages;
managing said processing state table to ensure said received management message member is processed in accordance with said condition block.

20. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the method further comprises the steps of:
updating said state table upon successful processing said management message member of said chain.